

26th Street Wall Collapse

Baltimore City Department of Transportation





Meeting Purpose

- Discuss what happened.
- Brief residents about ongoing efforts.
- Inform residents of what will happen in the next few months.



What Happened

- On Monday, November 26, 2018 a section of the retaining wall on East 26th Street above the CSX rail line through Charles Village partially buckled and began to fail.
- The potential failure of the retaining wall between North Calvert Street and Guilford Avenue caused DOT to close 26th Street. The wall failure also caused CSX Transportation to halt train operations for safety.
- DOT along with CSX and other city agencies assessed the situation.
- Contractor was mobilized and secured the compromised area.
- CSX resumed train operations at 2AM on November 27th.



What Happened

- The original walls along the CSX tracks were built as far back as the early 1900s.
- Although there have been no definite conclusions established for the failures, contributing factors may include hydrostatic pressure caused by the record amount of rain, erosion of soil layer around the wall, etc.



Current Progress

- The damaged upper wall has been removed.
- The slopes have been stabilized.
- Anti-erosion measures have been installed.
- The contractor is currently installing steel piles that will support access to the Lower Wall.



Maintenance of Traffic

- 26th Street between Guilford to Calvert will remain closed to vehicular traffic until repairs are complete.
- 26th Street Guilford to Calvert North sidewalk will remain closed until repairs are complete.
- 26th Street Guilford to Calvert South sidewalk remains open to pedestrian traffic only.
- Calvert Street: 25th to 27th Street - as of December 13, 2018 has been opened to one lane of through traffic.



Moving Forward

- DOT has selected a consultant to develop the wall design.
- The consultant will provide DOT with a preliminary design in the next few weeks.
- In the new design, DOT will take into consideration new tree wells/pits, lighting and agility trails .
- Wall repairs are expected to be complete by Summer, 2019.



Moving Forward

- Once the contractor finishes installing the steel piles to support access to the lower wall, the Lower Wall will be strengthened using augured Steel Piles.
- After the Lower Wall is strengthened, the Upper Wall will be replaced using encased Steel Piles and Precast Concrete Panels.
- The top of the new wall will feature an ornamental railing, similar to the wall between Charles and St Paul. Street
- The new structure will also allow for proper water drainage from behind the wall.

Next Steps

Moving Forward

- DOT will create a landing page on their website where residents can get updates every month about the progress on the 26th Street Wall repairs.
- Baltimore City and CSX are working together to establish an inspection program for the retaining walls that concern both agencies.
- Baltimore City will be expanding this program to include retaining walls throughout the city.

Thank You

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Questions?